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A WINTER PLAY SUIT

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Play suits now take the place of "everyday" winter coats for a great many children between 2 and 6 or 7 years old. These suits fill an important need for active boys and girls who are hampered by bulky winter clothing when they play out of doors in cold weather. If the suits are made of wind-proof, and, in many cases, waterproof material, the child can play in the open in all weather without getting chilled. So many children now have play suits of some sort that no child need feel oddly dressed if he wears one.

Several commercial pattern companies now make play suit patterns and a mother who is skillful in sewing can undertake to make a suit for her child that will answer every need. The suit illustrated is one designed by the Bureau of Home Economics, and the pattern for it may be obtained from a well-known commercial company. The Bureau will furnish the name of the company.

This suit is made of cotton suede, napped slightly on the inside as well as the outside. This is a close-woven fabric that shuts out the wind well and holds a layer of air for warmth next to the body. This suit is quite warm enough to be worn over ordinary house clothing all winter in a moderate climate, but in very cold sections an extra sweater underneath may be used. The blousy sleeves and legs are intentionally designed to permit more freedom of movement, to increase warmth by enclosing more air, and to allow for growth. The first year a playsuit should be a little large all over, with an allowance for lengthening under the back waist band. The leg bands and wristlets which will likely have to be replaced -- anyway for the second year -- may be made longer.

Special features of this suit are the knitted collar and wrist bands,



the sliding metal fastener from neck to crotch of the front, the large patch pockets placed on a level with the hands, and the full seat. The bands on the suit illustrated were hand knitted, but machine-made lumberjack bands can be used if more convenient. The neck opening is high but loose, and the collar rolls softly up under the chin. The wrist bands above the warm gloves keep the wind out, but they stretch easily and do not impede movement.

This suit is made in one piece for convenience in putting on and taking off, and for warmth, especially rain protection. In the back trouser section, there are two pleats at the bend of the hips, to give sitting and bending room; and fullness in the other direction is eased into the waist band. When first made there is an extension or lap of both the upper and lower back underneath the waistband to allow for growth. Later on the waistband can be sewed by its edges to the edges of the upper and lower sections to let the play suit out in length.

Under the sliding metal fastener there is a strip of cloth -- oil-cloth or rubberized material -- to keep the fastener from catching on the garments underneath, and to give added protection. Dressed in this suit and a matching helmet or beret, any active, normal child can play out-of-doors on cold or snowy days as well as in good weather.

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